

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 21-34 are now pending, with claims 1 and 3 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 3, and 27-30 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 3 may be found, for example, at pg. 3, lines 20-22 of the specification (i.e., first sentence of the Detailed Description of the Invention), at pg. 5, lines 26-30, at pg. 6, lines 1-5, and at Fig. 4 as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,404,877 (“Bolduc”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,563 (“Yamamoto”).

Bolduc discloses an automated toll-free search service, which employs a voice response unit to provide a list of toll-free telephone numbers and associated entities in response to a caller requesting information concerning a category of interest such as “clothing catalog services” or “bicycling catalogs” (see col. 2, lines 36-49). The information is announced and played for the caller. The caller then selects one of the toll-free numbers and the search service proceeds to launch a call to the selected toll-free number (see Abstract and Claim 1).

Yamamoto discloses a method of transmitting a mobile agent from one computer to a destination computer. The method requires the use of a temporary storage computer for temporarily storing the mobile agent in the form of a bit sequence such that the destination computer can later receive the agent when it is able to do so (see Abstract and Claim 1 of Yamamoto).

Applicants respectfully submit that neither of these references, either singly or in combination, discloses or teaches the step of receiving “a telephone call from an originating party, the telephone call including routing information for routing the telephone call to a called terminating

party, wherein the routing information includes one of a telephone number or an IP address of the called terminating party,” as required by the amended claims 1 and 3.

The service center of Bolduc is the called terminating party as the caller dials the designated toll free number (e.g., 1-800-FIND-4-ME) of the call service center to seek help in locating certain companies in a category of interest such as “clothing catalog services.” The call service center in turn suggests a list of telephone numbers to the caller. The call service center does not route the telephone call to itself. To the extent the Examiner contends the called terminating party is one of the telephone numbers suggested by the call service center, then the routing information of the telephone call from the caller to the service center clearly cannot and does not include the telephone number of such called terminating party, as specified by the amended claims 1 and 3. Lacking such terminating telephone number, Bolduc’s service center cannot “route the telephone call to the called terminating party based on the routing information,” as required by amended claims 1 and 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 1 and 3 are patentable over Bolduc and Yamamoto, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner also rejected dependent claims 25-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolduc in view of Yamamoto and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,999,574 (“Baker”). Baker discloses a method for assessing charges for information assistance service. Baker also does teach or suggest, either singly or in combination with Bolduc and Yamamoto, all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1 and 3. Furthermore, none of the cited references discloses (i) the step of “identifying cookies or web site favorites as forming a part of the identity of the originating party,” as required by dependent claim 25; or (ii) the step of “identifying a user-

specific characteristic associated with any IP address of a computer or wireless device ID as forming a part of the identity of the originating party,” as required by dependent claim 26.

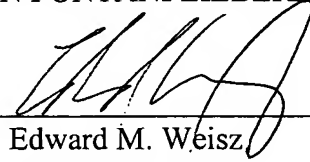
For the reasons set forth above, dependent claims 2, 5, 6 and 21-34 are also patentable over the cited prior art.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By



Edward M. Weisz
Reg. No. 37,257
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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